PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit:
) Examiner:
)) <u>FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT</u>
CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS AN EXPRESS MAILING IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS.
WASHINGTON, DC 20231 ON DECEMBER 29, 2000 MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE, LLP BY: DESCRIPTION DECEMBER 29, 2000 Lisa Lawrence LABEL NO. <u>EL702181980US</u>

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1419.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At Page 1, before the "Background of the Invention," please insert, "This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/141,405 filed August 27, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/030,060, now U.S. Patent No. 6,513,123, and U.S. Patent Serial No. 09/028,603, both filed on February 24, 1998 and both claiming priority

from U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/038,262 and 60/039,450, both filed on February 24, 1997.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim(s) 1-79 and 143-211 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSH FISCHMANN & BREYFOGLE LLP

David F. Dockery

Registration No. 34,323

3151 South Vaughn Way, Suite 411

Aurora, Colorado 80014

(303) 338-0997

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